

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a malt alcohol beverage, comprising:

removing through adsorption at least a part of rough flavor components from malt, a malt alcohol beverage intermediate product, or the malt alcohol beverage with the aid of an adsorbent resin selected from the group consisting of a strongly basic anion-exchange resin, and a weakly basic anion-exchange resin;

wherein said adsorbent resin adsorbs hydrophobic components; and

wherein the rough flavor component is a causative substance for ~~stale~~ aging of flavor or a precursor thereof.

Claims 2-4 (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of producing a malt alcohol beverage according to claim 1, wherein the rough flavor component is a carbonyl compound or a Maillard compound.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of producing a malt alcohol beverage according to claim 1, wherein the rough flavor component is an organic acid.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

mixing a raw material containing malt with water, thereby obtaining a mixture;

saccharifying the malt by warming the mixture, thereby obtaining saccharified malt; collecting wort from the saccharified malt;

fermenting the wort by addition of yeast thereto, thereby obtaining the malt alcohol beverage intermediate product;

storing the malt alcohol beverage intermediate product; and

filtering the malt alcohol beverage intermediate product to produce the malt alcohol beverage.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein said rough flavor components are removed before the filtration of the malt alcohol beverage intermediate product.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said adsorbent reduces a stale flavor of said malt alcohol beverage.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the adsorbent is a styrene or acrylic basic anion exchange resin.

Claims 11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the rough flavor component is propanal, hexanal, hexenal, pentanal, furfural, trans-2-nonenal, phenylacetaldehyde or a mixture thereof.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the rough flavor component is 5-hydroxymethylfurfural, an Amadori substance, a precursor of an Amadori substance or a mixture thereof.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the rough flavor component is selected from the group consisting of glucose-glycine, glucose-alanine, glucose-leucine, glucose-isoleucine, fructose-proline, fructose-glutamic acid, fructose-serine, fructose-threonine and mixtures thereof.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the rough flavor component is a heterocyclic compound having a pyrazine ring, pyrrole ring, or imidazole ring.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the rough flavor component is a product of the decomposition of an unsaturated fatty acid.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein an unsaturated fatty acid is removed.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 17, wherein said unsaturated fatty acid is selected from the group consisting of pyroglutamic acid, acetic acid, lactic acid, succinic acid, malic acid, pyruvic acid, citric acid, fumaric acid, isocitric acid and mixtures thereof.

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20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein a decrease in a degree of bitterness of the malt alcohol beverage after the adsorption is 0-50%.

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BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been amended as supported at page 4, lines 5-7, and at page 27, line 25 to page 28, line 1 of the specification.

No new matter is believed to have been added by entry of this amendment.

Entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 1, 5-10 and 13-20 will now be active in this application.